

the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the size of the country nearly doubled and the stage was set for a period of unparalleled development and progress. But first the new acquisition had to be explored. President Jefferson chose Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to, quote, explore the Missouri River and such principal streams of it, as, by its course and communications with the waters of the Pacific Ocean, whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado, or any other river may offer the most direct and practicable water communication across this continent for the purposes of commerce.

Lewis and Clark departed St. Louis on May 14, 1804, and returned to St. Louis 28 months later, on September 23, 1806. They crossed 8,000 miles, many States. Along the way they encountered formidable challenges that could easily have thwarted their mission. However, they continued to keep their focus firmly on the ultimate goal.

This Member believes that passage of H.Res. 144 will draw increased attention to the planning and celebration of the upcoming important bicentennial activities in these States. As someone with a long-standing interest in the expedition and a member of the newly formed Lewis and Clark Caucus, this Member is pleased to have this resolution considered on the floor, thanking his colleagues on both sides of the aisle, particularly the gentleman from Oregon who helped me in securing the movement of this legislation, and to the Committee on Resources.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. FURSE).

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 144. It expresses the support of Congress for the celebrations that will take place all across America during the Lewis and Clark Expedition bicentennial. Celebratory preparations are under way throughout my district in anticipation of the bicentennial, particularly in Astoria and all of Clatsop County. As many people know, the Lewis and Clark Expedition spent the winter of 1805 at Fort Clatsop, Oregon, which is in my district. In 1958, Congress established the Fort Clatsop National Memorial to preserve and protect this unique place in America's history. The present memorial marks the spot where Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and the entire Corps of Discovery spent 106 days during the winter of 1805, difficult days. It is interesting to note that the decision to winter at Fort Clatsop was decided by a majority vote of the Corps of Discovery. That vote included the voices of an African-American and a Native American. Long before America would grapple with the right to vote for minorities, Lewis and Clark were exercising that purist form of democracy, proving once again that we get better decisions when all are at the table.

It has been estimated that more than half a million people will visit Clatsop

County and the Fort Clatsop National Memorial during the two bicentennial summers of 2004 and 2005. I was proud to help secure funding in TEA-21 to help our region plan for the upcoming celebration. In addition, I am working with our county commissioners, with the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and with the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) on my legislation, H.R. 3378, which will allow the last piece of the Lewis and Clark trail known today as Sunset Beach to become part of the memorial itself. It is my hope we will be able to pass this bill before Congress adjourns for the year. The Lewis and Clark bicentennial will be a tremendous opportunity to reflect upon this unique and extraordinary achievement in American history.

I commend the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for taking the time to highlight the upcoming bicentennial celebration with this important resolution, and I urge its passage.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I just want to say that this has been a distinct privilege for me to be able to help manage this bill through the floor. This Member lived on the Clearwater River close to Ahsahka, Idaho, where Lewis and Clark traveled on that waterway right after one of the most difficult periods of time in their trip, when they nearly lost their life going over the Lolo Pass because of a lack of food supply and having to suffer through the elements. Yet, undaunted courage certainly was pulled out of those people in very difficult circumstances.

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In the 14 years that I spent living on that Clearwater River, living next to Ahsahka, where Lewis and Clark finally made their way to this spit of land that came out where the Clearwater joined the North Fork River of the Clearwater River, Lewis and Clark spent the winter there and carved out new canoes and reconstituted their food supply. So it has been a place of honor in my way of thinking; and, certainly, as a western woman, this has indeed been a privilege to be able to carry the bill of the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) through. I must say that the bill is constructed, the resolution is constructed and written, in a very clear and concise way and that I know and I pray that in the future it will be interpreted just as the clear meaning of the wording of the resolution simply states.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 144 expressing the support of Congress in the celebration of the bicentennial of the historic Lewis and Clark Expedition. Nearly two hundred years ago, Congress played a role in this historic journey by financing a small part of the expedition which was charged with finding an

all water route to the Pacific. Today, Congress can again play a role in one of the most remarkable and productive scientific and military exploring expeditions in all of American history by signaling its support for the bicentennial celebration activities and events.

The Corps of Discovery contributed greatly to our knowledge of the West, not only with respect to geography but also of the natural resources, flora, fauna and animals present. Recognizing the pivotal role the journey played in our nation's history and the inevitable movement westward, the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council is playing a leading role in coordinating and planning a variety of activities and events to commemorate the bicentennial. In addition, many committees and advisory boards have been formed across the country and are diligently working to ensure that the Lewis and Clark expedition is highlighted not only in the states in which the Corps of Discovery transversed, but throughout the nation.

Nearly two hundred years after the Corps of Discovery, Americans of all ages have begun a national pilgrimage to follow the steps of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. The success of the bicentennial commemorative activities planned all along the route will require the cooperation of all federal agencies, American Indian tribes, public officials and citizens alike. I believe it is important for all Americans to join in the celebration of this important American journey. We, as Members of Congress, must do all we can to support, promote and participate in the commemorative activities of the expedition, and I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H.Res. 144, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.Res. 144, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

ANCSA LAND BANK PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2000) to amend the Alaska